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Russia

Football Refines The Spy's Art

If Allen Dulles thinks the Russians have a pretty good espionage system, he should go out and see the pros play football. They're right up with the spy boys in refining the arts of intelligence.

Football, once a simple matter of power against power, is becoming now a game of guile against guile. And that chief guile artist, the "spotter," is arming himself with some new secret weapons.

The New York Giants are about to use a new kind of camera that develops film instantly. The spotter atop the press box takes his pictures of the enemy's defensive alignments, waits a minute for the film to develop and then dispatches it to the coaching staff on the sidelines.

The Los Angeles Rams have a gadget that should do even better. It's a machine on which the spotter diagrams the complete defensive set-up of the opposition and that diagram appears simultaneously on a machine next to the coach downstairs. No need now to pick up the phone and report that the middle guard is overshifted to the left and use the "A-27 series with the flareout to the right."

With football getting tougher on the field, it's only natural that it'll also get rougher at the spotting heights. And there's no end to what electronics can do for this business.

Could be that the victories will go some day to the best camera instead of the best team. The spies are in action—in focus.